

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

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THE COLORED AMERICAN,
459 C Street N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

IN THE LEAD.

There are 112 newspapers, with a combined circulation each issue of 76,500 copies, published in the interests of the 7,570,000 Afro-Americans in the United States. The one paper believed to have the largest circulation is THE COLORED AMERICAN, Washington, D. C.—Printers Ink, June 24, '99

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's annual message has been given to Congress. From the many points of view it is one of the ablest and most comprehensive state papers that have ever emanated from the White House. It is full of the spirit of optimism, and the strong sense of national pride which characterizes the many subjects treated will cause the eagle to scream with increased vigor, and the American citizen will realize more than at any time since the birth of the republic that "We are indeed the people." The reports of the various branches of the government indicate that the country is in a beautiful condition financially, and that our material resources are being fostered and developed in a highly encouraging degree. The expected era of prosperity seems to have arrived and the future holds out the promise of a greater nation in wealth, education and territorial expansion. Liberal systems of government are guaranteed to our insular possessions, and the President indicates a firm purpose to sustain American sovereignty wherever the flag has been hoisted, including permanent retention of the Philippines and the continuation of the war until order is restored in that archipelago.

The most interesting feature of the document is the reference to the lynching question. For months the colored people of the land have petitioned and beseeched Mr. McKinley to give out some public utterance against the violence of mobs, which was undermining the courts, destroying the confidence in the general government, and making a mockery of the Constitution in several states of the country. Negroes who dared to contend for their rights were made to flee from their homes, and their property was confiscated or rendered valueless by the action of lawless citizens. It was felt by everybody that an expression of disapproval of these baleful and un-American practices would have a most salutary moral effect and that instruction to the federal officers to exert their influence on the side of law and order would so hold out the fear of punishment to offenders that the horrors of this system of execution without legal process would be reduced to a minimum.

Mr. McKinley has spoken. Not only has he reiterated the sentiments contained in his inaugural address, condemning mob violence, but has reinforced them by utterances that admit of no doubt that he is thoroughly in earnest. As expressions, they are all that could be desired, except that he makes no appeal to Congress to provide means for the enforcement of the principles he claims to be right. Somebody must take the initiative in meeting out the punishment advised. Experience has taught us that the state courts of the South cannot be trusted to grant fair trials to Negroes accused

of crime, nor will the machinery of the law be properly utilized to bring to justice those who unwarrantedly usurp the functions of the courts. Here are the words of the President: "The love of law and the sense of obedience and submission to the lawfully constituted judicial tribunals are embedded in the hearts of our people, and any violation of these sentiments and disregard of their obligations justly arouses public condemnation. The guarantees of life, liberty and civil rights should be faithfully upheld; the right of trial by jury respected and defended. The rule of the courts should assure the public of the prompt trial of those charged with criminal offenses and upon conviction the punishment should be commensurate with the enormity of the crime."

Those who, in disregard of law and the public peace, unwilling to await the judgment of court and jury, constitute themselves judges and executioners, should not escape the severest penalties for their crimes. What I said in my inaugural Address of March 4, 1897, I now repeat: "The constituted authorities must be cheerfully and vigorously upheld. Lynchings must not be tolerated in a great and civilized country like the United States. Courts, not mobs, must execute the penalties of the laws. The preservation of public order, the right of discussion, the integrity of courts, and the orderly administration of justice must continue forever the rock of safety upon which our Government securely rests."

We cannot do other than give Mr. McKinley due credit for these very honest and forcible utterances, and we sincerely hope they will carry the weight that such a rebuke from the highest officer in the land should carry; and that Congress will back up the movement so happily begun, and so strengthen the laws on the subject that criminals can be reached and punished by the national authorities when the state refuses or fails to do its full duty. We should have felt much more encouraged, however, had Mr. McKinley spoken as directly upon the lynching of Negroes as he did upon the lynching of the Italians in Louisiana, and had he as strongly impressed upon Congress the necessity for protecting our own citizens as for providing for the safety of foreigners who may happen to get into trouble within the boundaries of the United States. We believe the first duty of Congress is to secure to the brave Afro-American the rights and immunities that are justly his—to guarantee the enjoyment of civil and political privileges to the sturdy men who have borne arms in defense of the national honor; who have tilled our fields; who have hewn down the forests, and who have built up the waste places of our prosperous land. Yet we honor Mr. McKinley for the attention given our cause, and we shall not be backward in doing all within our power to make effective the principles he so clearly outlines. If he shall use his good offices to push up to the "scratch" the subordinates over whom he holds the power of life and death, and lend the aid of the administration to such measures as will confer any needed authority not denied by the federal Constitution, the situation will quickly improve. The Negro will do his share. The game is up to Congress now.

The President's message comes as a refreshing draught, and will do much to silence one very strong ground for complaint on the part of our people.

Should it so happen that the republicans make their ticket read McKinley and Root, and the democrats should pin their faith to Bryan and Hogg, the political jokers and pun-makers would be called upon to work overtime.

If we could have our way for a brief period, the so-called "Negro Quarter" of Washington would be abolished so speedily that it would make somebody's head swim. The absurd segregation grows out of an old time prejudice that is now justifiable only in the most limited degree. The spectacle of ill-clad people forever sitting on front stoops, door after door, apparently with not an earthly thing to do, is an abomination calculated to make angels weep. This is equalled in offensiveness by the figures of sundry "mamies" with their heads tied up in rags, smoking an antiquated pipe and calmly surveying the situation from the windows, "rubber-necking" into the affairs of all their neighbors. We do not know what can be done to abate this species of city nuisances, but we do know that the community and the reputable portion of our race would be better off if something could be done toward breaking up "Negro neighborhoods," root and branch.

If his present luck holds out, Manager Chase will have an abundance of Christmas suits on hand.

"EXPANSION" IN METHODISM.

If the A. M. E. Connection is wise it will not be niggard in the matter of electing Bishops at the next session of its General Conference. There are several vacancies to be filled. Other Bishops are getting along in years, and cannot endure the fatigue of travel and preaching as they could two decades ago, and they are forced to cover large districts as best they can. The districts all around should be reduced in size, to the end that the supervision may be closer and more beneficial, and that the Bishops may have more time

for reading and study. The church represents to the people of our own and other races much of the intelligence and organizing capacity of the Negro, and when a Bishop opens his mouth in the vast gatherings he is frequently called upon to address, he runs the gauntlet of the critical judgment of the country. Sometimes those who listen are not ardent admirers of our race. They are often too willing that errors in statement, logic and in grammar, due to hasty preparation, shall form their estimate of the intellectual attainments of which the Negro is capable. Let us, through our leading church officials, put our best foot foremost by electing enough Bishops to carry on the work in the proper manner. The selection of five, or even six Bishops would mean a higher grade of efficiency, more souls for Christ, and more money.

What is said of the A. M. E. Church, is likewise applicable to the A. M. E. Zion Church's legislative body, which convenes in this city in May of the next year. This great organization should choose at least two Bishops, and three wouldn't be too many. It is time for our greatest churches to take on the prevailing spirit of "expansion."

When some thoughtless person undertakes to talk about the white people paying 95 per cent of the taxes of a given locality, where Negroes constitute a large proportion of the population, just call to his mind that to the brawn and industry of those blacks the white man owes a large measure of his ability to earn the title to his property. To be sure, the Negro is rated as a tenant, but the tenant pays all the taxes and expenses.

WHO WILL BE DELEGATE?

The canvass for the delegateship to the next republican convention is beginning to take form and color. A boom of no mean dimensions has sprung up in favor of Mr. Daniel Murray, and it is understood that he will have the backing of the Board of Trade, of which he is a member and the business and real estate interests generally. Mr. Murray is a worthy man, and represents the solid citizenship of the District, and it would surprise no one if he should be the successful aspirant. Dr. C. B. Purvis is said to be a candidate, but as yet his feet are snugly encased in rubber shoes. He is said to have the active sympathy of that "old war horse," Col. Perry Carson, but it must be remembered that Brother Carson has not yet told his friends that he would not be in the field himself. The wise acres say that Banker L. C. Bailey will not be "in it" this year—that his meteoric dash of 1896 gave him all the politics he could digest in the next quarter of a century. Lucius Peterson is "lying low," posing as the candidate of the younger element, but it is said that his claim to this particular representation will be contested by Aldrich T. Lewis, of the District building. The alternates will be selected from the best of the defeated candidates for delegate, and that problem is being allowed to take care of itself. All seem to be "sparing for wind" at this stage of the game. The fight is young yet, and it is anybody's victory as it stands.

We have no idea what it is all about, but Brother Wimberly's sprightly paper, the Augusta Union, comes to us each week, loaded to the guards with a dozen varieties of buck shot, grape and cannister, besides several tons of dynamite. Whoever Wimberly's is after will get it just above the collar if he doesn't look out.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN E. BRUCE.

John E. Bruce, the ubiquitous and irrepressible, (known to the entire reading world as "Bruce Grit"), has been "doing" Boston. But we may add, he is "doing" that center of brains and culture good. Mr. Bruce is always a trenchant and original writer, with a rare faculty for picking out just exactly the things which tickle the mental palate of the public and which furnish a practical information and line of thought not obtainable from any other source. Happy in expression, and adept in the hurling of javelins into the tender regions of his contemporaries, as Bruce always is, he seems to have outdone himself in this series of Boston letters, and down upon several flights on the literary staircase. We have enjoyed them, and have been pleased to share that enjoyment with our many patrons. Modern journalism has no brighter light than that given out by John E. Bruce, and advanced civilization has not a more gallant champion than this versatile and energetic man of the pen. It is a delightful circumstance that Mr. Bruce's success has not been achieved alone. Woman's sweetening influence has been a potent factor, for he is known, he has had at all times the sympathy and encouragement of a faithful wife, and from her he receives much valuable assistance in his labors. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce please accept assurances of our most distinguished consideration.

Now that Mr. Hobart is no more, the republicans must find a suitable vice presidential candidate to fill out the McKinley ticket. Sewell of New Jersey, Fairbanks of Indiana, Bradley

of Kentucky and Atkinson of West Virginia, are all good men and could each carry their state for republicanism. We have no preference at this time; anybody will do—except, "Teddy" Roosevelt and H. Clay Evans.

A LITTLE TALK ABOUT THE RENTING OF HOUSES

There is frequent and just complaint that respectable colored people are denied the occupancy of good residences in desirable portions of this city, leading thus to the building up and perpetuation of that nauseating anomaly—the "Negro neighborhood." Here are crowded in indiscriminate confusion all classes and grades of colored people, driven together from sheer inability to secure decent accommodations at reasonable prices in localities of their choice, where white people enjoy better dwellings at rates no higher than is charged colored people for inferior homes in unsanitary and poorly equipped precincts. The owners and agents are greatly to be censured for their indisposition to trust their judgment in separating the good tenants from the bad, and to treat each according to his merit. A citizen, who obeys the laws and conducts himself in a manner that makes him a congenial neighbor, or at least a harmless one, should be allowed to live in whatever quarter he elects, provided he can pay the price others pay for similar service. Anything short of this is unfair and un-American. Something must be done to rid Washington of the pest-holes and disease breeders known as "alley houses," with their concomitant immoral atmosphere. A step in the right direction would be the building in the suburbs of clean, wholesome cottages, to be rented at nominal figures to respectable colored families. Now that the car lines go everywhere for five cents, it is no hardship for the poorest to go into the suburbs, where light and air and all the comforts of home life can be had in abundance.

To be sure the real estate men have their "tale of woe" to tell in regard to the reasons for discriminating against even well-appearing colored people. They claim that the average Negro family is not as careful in the use of a house as the average white family of the same social status. They point to the fact that the stay of the Negro tenant is generally of short duration, and instead of cleaning up when they go, they leave floors unswept, the windows dirty, the woodwork bruised and scratched, the walls or paper torn and disfigured from lighting matches, etc., and the closets or outhouses full of accumulated rubbish. An agent claimed that he could cite a case of a well-to-do colored family to whom he had rented a nice house had so shamefully abused the premises that it cost as much to put the place in habitable order as the people had paid during their short tenancy; and further that domestic cleanliness cannot be determined by external appearances or cultured address; frequently the people of the so-called "middle class" made the best customers from every point of view—promptness in payment of rent, length of stay and care of property. We can not say how far we are to blame for the distressing conditions that confront us, but if any of these allegations are true, we should set about applying a remedy. It does no harm once in a while to confess to ourselves some disagreeable facts about ourselves, for the correction of an evil can only come through a candid admission that the evil exists. We know persons, white and black, to whom we should not like to rent a well-kept house of ours; yet, it is none the less unjust to force the innocent and painstaking to suffer for the sins of the sloven and indifferent. The wolves can be separated from the sheep, if the proper precautions are observed. It might be well for an applicant, whatever his color, to be required to show a certificate from former landlords, stating in what condition he was in the habit of leaving the places rented by him. Thus every tenant could be estimated independently and intelligently, according to the record he had made. This is a large subject, and should be discussed at length by our Councils and literary organizations. If we are responsible for our troubles, let us set about the creation of a better order of things, and remove these objections by cleanly and considerate treatment of leased property. If the other fellow is at fault, we must find a way to get him on the right side. In the meantime, work for the elimination of that abomination, the "alley house."

Ex Senator T. T. Allain is a thorough race man and is sound on all the issues of the hour. He is safe, reliable, and conscientious. He will honor any post to which he may be called, and nothing is too good for him. He is one of the most useful workers for race elevation in public life today.

DODGING ISSUES DO NOT SETTLE THEM.

Negro theaters would help to clarify the problem of accommodation just as Negro hotels, restaurants, and other business enterprises are doing. We believe in developing our own industries. That is all right, but the issue at stake in the present controversy is not settled by letting the white man alone when he has anything we want, and when we are legally entitled to the same. The Negro would be obliged to get off the earth, if the wish of some

white "separatists" were consulted. Let us build up theaters and everything else we can of our own but where there is an article in the white man's place which he operates under a license to serve all the people, it must be our privilege to go there and get it on the same footing as other citizens. Dodging issues do not settle them.

Political affiliation is a local question. It must be adjusted to suit the needs of the time and place. The Negro must study the situation closely, and be brave enough and independent enough to choose the course that will bring the best results to the whole people—not forgetting himself in the round up. Politics is simply a matter of business. The white man knows that to be a fact. The black man gradually becoming aware of it.



DR. L. W. LIVINGSTONE.

Consul to Cape Hazen, Hayti, an appointee of President McKinley, is in this country and will be here until about the first of the year. Dr. Livingstone is a native of Florida but served as an efficient clerk in the Treasury Department for six years and through his magnificent work was promoted to the place he now holds. He has represented the United States in a way that is a credit to the country as well as to the race. We will speak more of the Doctor in subsequent issues of this paper.

IN ECCLESIASTICAL POLITICS.

(Continued from first page.)

tor of divinity, and a Baptist from way back. He is corresponding secretary of the Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention. This Boyd runs a publishing house and employs seven Negroes and pays his proof readers and big dogs in his house \$20 and \$25 a week. This Boyd has a hobby—buying fine printing material. The other day he put in a big Babcock press worth \$4,000. He now has four big presses running constantly, and the only complete bindery for the product of big books owned by Negroes. The publishing business is conducted in two magnificent buildings, and the property, which the Board owns, and the plant is valued at \$80,000.

There are only four Negro colleges and Universities here, but when the needs of the people demand more, we'll try to have them.

Of course there is a large number of the understratum of Negroes who "conjure," drive donkeys and billy goats and follow the band, but we can't all be big fish.

"MAHCHIN" WID DE BAN.

Oh, we are mighty, monstrous happy,
In de middle ob de day,
When de sun am shinin' brightly,
An' de flags am flyin' gay,
When a ban' ob sixty pieces,
(Sixty pieces, more or less,)
Play sich lubly music,
Dat it full yo' soul to rest!
Wid de drum-major struttin'
Lak a tuhkey goblah gran'
An' we am dancin' an' a' pracin'
An' a' mahchin' wid de ban'.
Keepin' step am jes' as easy,
When de ban' beixin' to play;
Jes' come to us as natchal,
As a horse come to his hay;
Kase ouah heahs am full ob gladness,
When de drums begin to beat,
Wid dey thumpin' an' a' bounpin'
While we keeps time wid ouah feet.
Oh, de pleashuah am delicious,
Jes' de fines' in de lan'
When we am dancin' an' a' pracin'
An' a' mahchin' wid de ban'.

Et yo' evah has some trouble,
In any time ob yeah,
Collectin' culled people,
Dat am livin' tuh an' nesh,
Jes' git a tan' ob sixty pie es,
All dress in uniforms,
Wid dem go! things on dey shouldahs,
An' red stripes aroun' dey ahms,
Dan a' de culled people,—
De yallah, black an' tan,
Will quit dey situations,
An' go mahchin' wid dat ban'.

PHIL H. BROWN.

The Way Bro. Lark Puts It.
Put money in thy purse.—Shakespeare.
Put brains in thy work.—Booker T. Washington.
Put Shakespeare and Washington in thy life.—The South, Augusta, Ga.

A DRAMATIC EPISODE

Fit for the Painter's Brush Were the Thrilling Scenes attending the Defeat of the Hardwick Bill. Dr. Brockett In Evidence—"73 to 3" Cabalistic Figures that Will Live in Georgia's History.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The scenes in the Lower House of the Georgia Legislature during the great struggle to disfranchise the Negro will live in history. During the height of the great battle Dr. J. A. Brockett scored a fine victory for the great throng of representative Negroes who were present. The full significance of the occasion and the damaging effect upon the Negro's future in the southern states by the passage of the Hardwick Bill in the state of Georgia aroused the most intelligent and conservative citizens of the Negro race. It was a truly dramatic scene—a fit subject for the brush of any painter. The misguided but fearfully earnest, eloquent, and scholarly Hardwick piling up fact after fact, reason after reason why the Negro should be disfranchised. Every member of the lower House was in his seat and attention was centered upon the author of the now famous bill. Copeland and Harrison came to the rescue. After two hours of splendid effort Mr. Hardwick resumed his seat, and Representative Copeland, a superb orator, secured the floor.

The stillness of death prevailed. Negroes of culture, and among them were men famous as orators and scholars, crowded in one corner of the spacious gallery, breathlessly wondering if that slender, yet self-possessed man yonder, self-possessed even to carelessness, was friend or foe. With burning eloquence and fiery invective, with a suddenness of manner, power of voice, incisiveness of speech, Mr. Copeland addressed himself to the defense of the Negro's rights with such irresistible logic that the plea of Hardwick was completely annihilated within the space of ten minutes. Then with the grace of a master of debate, such a plea has seldom been made for human rights as was then made and fell upon the ears of the vast assembly. Justice was pitted against tyranny and won—oppression's chains were thrown about the fair form of liberty, but they were burst asunder, and the sacred right of franchise was preserved inviolate to the present and coming generations of Negroes in Georgia.

The second victory for the Negro was won by the eloquent Dr. Brockett, who upon seeing two of the most representative Negroes of the state ejected from seats by gallery ushers, appealed to the Speaker direct for a division of the yeas. After more than an hour's labor, the plea was heard and granted. This is an historic event and the figures 137 to 3 will live in the history of the Negro in Georgia.

The Colored American can be found at Pugsley's Cigar, Tobacco and Stand, 4 Loyd street, Saturday day and Monday.

TO UPLIFT THE RACE.

Mrs. William Scott Missionary and Educational Agent to Speak Throughout Washington.

Mrs. William Scott, the noted lecturer, missionary and special agent of the American Baptist Home Mission Society for Negro Education has arrived in the city, after a successful tour of the Baptist churches of Western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Scott has been engaged in philanthropic work for many years, and has represented at various times some of the leading educational institutions of the country. She comes



MRS. WM. SCOTT.

highly recommended by ministers and leading citizens of many states. Her opening address was delivered before a representative gathering Thursday evening at Berean Baptist church and she made a most excellent impression. She is an earnest and eloquent speaker and is pronounced by good judges to take rank on the platform with eminent women as Mrs. Mary A. Livermore and Mrs. J. Ellen Foster. Mrs. Scott's city address here is No. 520 F street, northwest. Her list of appointments for the next few days is as follows:

Sunday December 10—11 am. First Baptist Church, 3 pm., Baptist church, corner 5th and I streets, northwest. Monday, December 11, 8 am. Baptist church, F street, northwest. Eight pm. Liberty Baptist church, corner 13th and E streets, n.w. Tuesday December 12—8 pm. Shiloh Baptist church, Alexandria, Va. Wednesday, 13, 8 pm. Shiloh Baptist church, L street, near 17th. Thursday December 14, 8 pm. 19th street Baptist church, corner 19th and I streets, n.w. Third Sunday 11 am., Metropolitan Baptist church, R street, near 14th.